

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS

MARRIAGE RATE

There were 1807 marriages in Lancaster County in 1997. This translates into a rate of 7.7 per 1000 population. The Nebraska rate was 7.6 per 1000 in 1997. The marriage rates for Nebraska and Lancaster County have remained relatively stable for the past five years (Figure 19).

As in 1996, the most common months of marriage in 1997 were August, June, and May, respectively (Table 28).

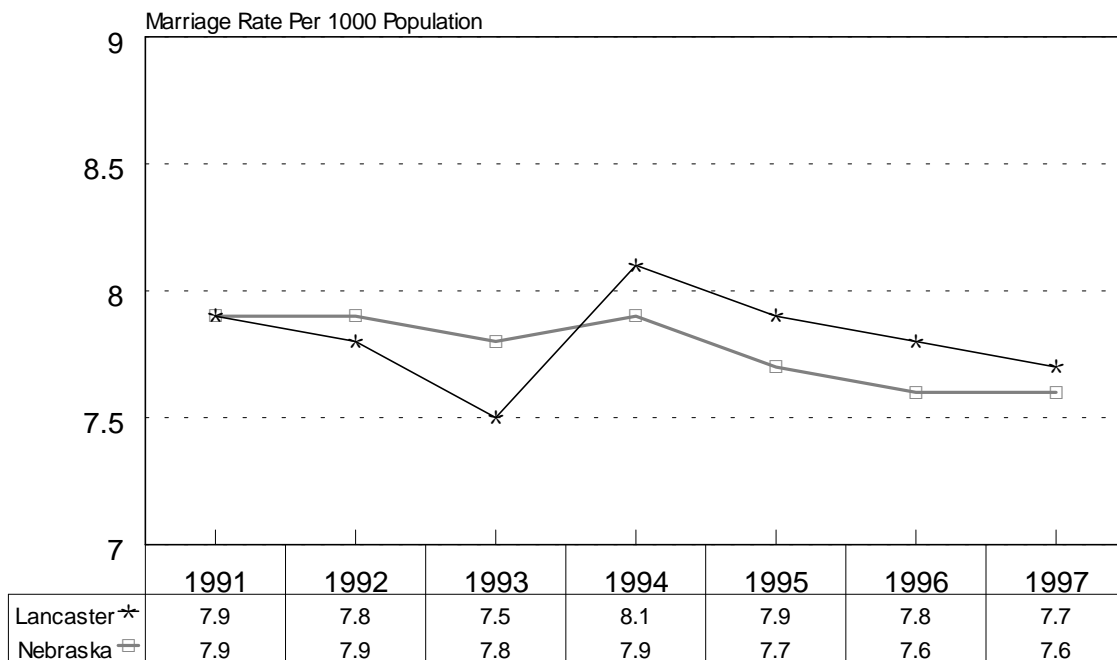
AGE AND RACE

In 1997, 1649 (91.3%) of grooms and 1678 (92.9%) of brides were White. The remaining 158 grooms and 129 brides were of other races (Table 29). In 1997, the mean (average) age for Lancaster

TABLE 28.
Marriages by Month
Lancaster County, 1997

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Frequency</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| January | 80 | 4.4 |
| February | 105 | 5.8 |
| March | 93 | 5.1 |
| April | 112 | 6.2 |
| May | 214 | 11.8 |
| June | 215 | 11.9 |
| July | 180 | 10.0 |
| August | 242 | 13.4 |
| September | 187 | 10.3 |
| October | 166 | 9.2 |
| November | 121 | 6.7 |
| December | 92 | 5.1 |
| TOTAL | 1807 | 100.0 |

Figure 19: Comparison of Marriage Rates
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1997



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County grooms was 31.1 years. The mean age for brides was 29.2 years.

The mean marriage age of White males and females, regardless of the number of marriages, was 31.1 and 29.3 years, respectively. The mean age for Black males and females was 31.3 and 30.6 years, respectively. The mean marriage age for American Indian males and females was 35.7 and 26.1, respectively. The mean marriage age was 28.4 for Asian males and 27.2 for Asian females.

TABLE 29
Marriage by Sex and Race
Lancaster County, 1997

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>%</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| White | 1649 | 91.3 | 1678 | 92.9 |
| Black | 92 | 5.1 | 47 | 2.6 |
| Am. Indian | 13 | 0.7 | 12 | 0.7 |
| Asian | 51 | 2.8 | 67 | 3.7 |
| Other | 2 | 0.1 | 3 | 0.2 |
| TOTAL | 1807 | 100.0 | 1807 | 100.0 |

TABLE 30
Marriage/Divorce Ratio
Race of Male
Lancaster County, 1997

| | <u>Number of</u> <u>Marriages/Divorces</u> | <u>Ratio</u> |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| White | 1649/866 | 1.9/1 |
| Black | 92/33 | 2.8/1 |
| Am Indian | 13/8 | 1.6/1 |
| Asian | 51/16 | 3.2/1 |
| Other | 2/19 | 0.1/1 |
| TOTAL | 1807/942 | 1.9/1 |

EDUCATION

Grooms and brides had a mean education of 14.2 years or two years of education beyond high school. The most frequent educational level was equivalent to a high school education (12 years).

DIVORCE RATE

The 1997 marriage/divorce ratio in Lancaster County was 1.9/1 (Table 30), indicating that there were 1.9 times as many marriages as divorces.

There were 942 divorces in Lancaster County in 1997. This represents a divorce rate of 4.0 per 1,000 population, a rate similar to those of the previous decade (Figure 20). The 1997 divorce rate for Nebraska was 3.8 per 1000 population.

Among all divorced males in 1997, 69.1% were divorced for the first time. Among females, 63.8% were divorced for the first time (Table 31).

AGE AND RACE

The average age of divorced males was 38.3 years and the average age of divorced females was 36.2 years. The median age of divorced males was 37.0 years, while the median age of divorced females was 35.0 years. The average age of first time divorced males and females was 35.7 and 33.5 years, respectively.

In 1997, 93.8% of divorces involved White males and 95.2% of divorces involved White females.

Marriage/divorce ratios ranged from 1.6/1 for American Indians to 3.2/1 for Asians (Table 30).

SETTLEMENT

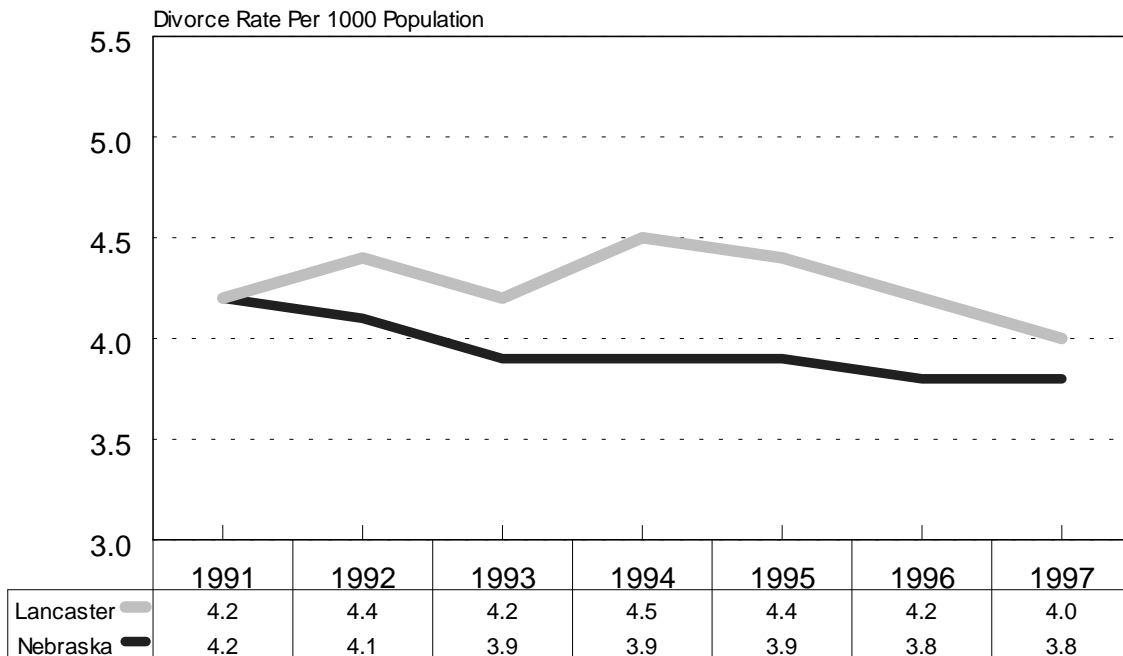
In 1997, divorce settlements ranged from no settlement to alimony, child support, property, or a combination of settlements. Table 32 lists the types and frequencies of divorce settlements.

As seen in Table 32, 132 divorces (14.0%) resulted in no type of settlement. The most frequent settlements were those involving property (35.4%) and child support/property (29.7%).

TABLE 31.
Number of Times Married At Time Of Divorce
Males and Females
Lancaster County, 1997

| Times | Married | Males | Percent | Females | Percent |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | | 651 | 69.1 | 601 | 63.8 |
| 2 | | 206 | 21.9 | 227 | 24.1 |
| 3 | | 47 | 5.0 | 64 | 6.8 |
| 4 | | 9 | 1.0 | 16 | 1.7 |
| 5 | | 1 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.5 |
| 6 or More | | 2 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.3 |
| Not | | | | | |
| Classifiable | | 26 | 2.8 | 26 | 2.8 |
| TOTAL | | 942 | 100.0 | 942 | 100.0 |

Figure 20: Comparison of Divorce Rates
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1997



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CHILDREN OF DIVORCE & CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Of the 942 divorces in 1997, 484 (51.4%) involved children under the age of 18. These divorces involved 886 children (0.9 children per divorce).

Among the 484 divorce settlements involving children during 1997, the divorced woman was awarded custody of all or some children in 76.4% (408) of the cases. Divorced men were awarded custody of some or all children in 15.7% (76) of divorce.

In 10.5% (51) of divorces, joint custody was awarded for some of all of the children. In 1.4% (7) of divorces, some or all children were awarded to a party other than the divorced man or woman.

TABLE 32.
Types of Settlements
Lancaster County, 1997

| | <u>Frequency</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| None | 132 | 14.0 |
| Alimony Only | 16 | 1.7 |
| Child Support Only | 99 | 10.5 |
| Property Settlement Only | 333 | 35.4 |
| Alimony and Child Support | 11 | 1.2 |
| Alimony and Property Settlement | 29 | 3.1 |
| Child Support and Property Settlement | 280 | 29.7 |
| Alimony, Child Support, & Property | 42 | 4.5 |
| TOTAL | 942 | 100.0 |